

The Topeka State Journal.

10 CENTS A WEEK.

5 O'CLOCK. TOPEKA, KANSAS, SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 3, 1894.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

CHILD'S IS DEAD.

Death Occurred at Exactly 3:01 This Morning.

Came Quietly and Without Any Pain.

SORROWING FRIENDS

Witnessed the Event They Could Not Help.

The Famous Philanthropist's Life, Work and Fortune.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 3.—George W. Childs, editor and proprietor of the Public Ledger, died at his home Twenty-second and Walnut streets, at 3:01 o'clock this morning. At 10 o'clock last night his respiration became embarrassed, and the physicians at the bedside said that the end was close at hand. At midnight the patient's pulse was flagging and he sank gradually but steadily until death came to put an end to the long struggle for life. Mrs. Childs and Drs. Du Costa, Ladd and Mills were in the sick room at the end.

The end of the great publisher and



GEORGE W. CHILDS.

world-famous philanthropist, came with the same tranquility with which his remarkable career had been marked. At his bedside were the physicians who had carefully watched his every symptom since the day he was stricken, and Mrs. Childs, the companion of his years of usefulness.

It was scarcely more than two weeks ago on Thursday, January 18, that the sad news was succinctly foreshadowed. Secretary Stone heard a noise as of a heavy body falling in the publisher's private office. Instantly rushing into the room he found Mr. Childs stretched upon the floor in an utterly helpless condition. Summoning N. S. Editor Sheppard, the two together quickly lifted the sick man to a couch and stimulants were administered, which revived the sufferer somewhat. It was then found that he had been stricken in vertigo.

He had been sitting in his chair at his desk reading when the stroke fell, and as he lurched forward and fell to the floor, he still held a letter in his grasp. Even before Dr. J. M. Da Costa could arrive in answer to the hasty summons it was discovered that Mr. Childs' right arm was hanging limp at his side. They perceived also something far more serious, that his left arm had been affected. They finally got him to his feet that a blood vessel had burst. But in a few days his condition grew alarmingly worse and he soon lapsed into his former semi-consciousness.

In this painful plight he lay for days at a time. At one interval he seemed to understand what was going on around him and the anxious questions addressed to him, but only once or twice during his long illness was he able to utter words that the physicians at his bedside listened carefully as they might, could interpret. Promptly on the very first day, the most specialists in nervous diseases, Drs. S. Weir Mitchell and Charles E. Mills, were called in the hope that they might be able to arouse the dormant nerves on the right side.

Signs of Hope.
On last Wednesday he gave a hopeful sign of recovery. The physicians had set his food at his bedside when all at once Mr. Childs threw forth his arms and struck the dishes. They were knocked helter-skelter upon the floor. He had evidently attempted to reach them, his muscles failing after the brief effort to raise his paralyzed arm.

Through one or twice in the last few days the attending physicians thought they saw a gleam of hope, the bulletins issued by them every day did not carry much encouragement, and the many friends of the famous editor felt that the end was only a question of a very short time.

News of Mr. Childs' illness spread very rapidly and a flood of telegrams of inquiry and letters of sympathy began pouring in on the day he was stricken down and continued to the time of his death. At no time, however, had there been confidence in his recovery, and the shock of the great philanthropist's death was somewhat broken by his long illness.

Mr. Childs was a changed man from the day of the sudden death of his lifelong friend and bosom companion, Anthony J. Drexel, in June of last year. Those who were close to him and capable of noting his every feeble act saw that he now lived heavily and that there was a loss of buoyancy and gradual lessening of the old spirit and vim. The loss of his friend was more than he could bear. Close friends feared the worst and looked sadly upon the encroaching disease.

About two years ago Mr. Childs met with an accident while walking on Chest-

nut street. He slipped on the ice and badly sprained his ankle and it was feared his injuries must prove fatal. He entirely recovered from the effects of his fall, however, and beyond a few occasional twitches of rheumatism in his legs, had not complained of any material illness up to the time of the unexpected attack which caused his death. The change for the worse came unexpectedly. Those in a position to know, said as late as yesterday afternoon, that Mr. Childs while certain to die, would live for four or five days yet.

Present at the bedside at the time of his death in addition to the physicians were Mrs. Childs, Col. E. De V. Morell and James W. Paul, Jr., son-in-law of the late A. J. Drexel; George W. Childs, Drexel and W. P. Steele, Mr. Childs' private secretary.

Death Painless and Peaceful.

One of the physicians in attendance upon Mr. Childs made the following statement this morning to a representative of the Associated Press: "Mr. Childs suffered no pain and his end was peaceful. He had been unconscious for the past three days, except at intervals. The change for the worse became manifest about 9:30 last evening. His pulse faltered and grew rapidly worse. It was then apparent that the end was near and that his death was only a question of a few hours."

"Mr. Childs' lower limbs were not paralysed as has been stated. The stroke only affected his right side, so having lost the use of both his right arm and leg. Mr. Childs, during his last hours, lay like a child asleep and when he grew so much worse at midnight, every attempt was made to arouse him, but without avail."

Awaiting the End.

The little group of friends and physicians who gathered about the death bed of Mr. Childs only awaited the end. They had known for several hours that death was coming. Mr. Childs grew weaker and weaker until at 3:01 o'clock, he ceased breathing. He did not show any signs of unconscience and his death was entirely calm and peaceful.

The Childs residence is located in the aristocratic quarter of West Walnut street, and presence of drugs on the door this morning apprised the early passers-by of the fact that the great editor and philanthropist had passed away.

As early as 10 o'clock telegrams of condolence began to pour into the Ledger office. These, as far as they were received were sent to Miss. Childs.

The arrangements for the funeral are in the hands of James W. Paul, Jr., a nephew of the late A. J. Drexel, and a close personal friend of Mr. Childs. It will probably be late this afternoon before it will be decided whether the funeral will be public or private. It is the wish of Mrs. Childs that the ceremonies will be of a private character. Friends of the dead man are urging, however, that since Mr. Childs was one of the best known men in the country, the obsequies should be public.

It is believed that the remains of Mr. Childs will be placed in the Drexel mausoleum in Woodlawn cemetery beside those of his life-long friend and business partner, A. J. Drexel. This is believed to be the wish of both Mr. and Mrs. Childs.

His Fortune and Interests.

Mr. Childs' fortune is believed to be a large one, but whether it be one million or ten is a question that only those intimately acquainted with his affairs can say. He was in receipt of a very large income for years, and had made excellent investments in many ways. But while his income was so large his expenditures also were great, especially in support of educational and charitable institutions and individual charities.

The profit from the publication of the Ledger is said to have averaged, as high as \$1,000 a day. A large interest in the Public Ledger will be asserted by the A. J. Drexel estate and it is probable that both his widow and those of his partner in the owner of the paper, the late A. J. Drexel, will be carried on by the present publisher, George W. Childs Drexel. The latter young gentleman was associated with Mr. Childs as publisher in September last.

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Biographical.

In Baltimore, on May 16, 1829, Mr. Childs was born, and in that city he spent his boyhood. Mr. Childs came to Philadelphia from Baltimore in 1846, and here he was nearly penniless and save but his family in this city. Within a few weeks after his arrival his family removed, and he became a lodger in a small room in a back room of one of the great houses in the city. He was a student of law, and worked at odd employments at one time or another, but he had a small store at a weekly salary of \$2.

He was recognized in his neighborhood as a Democrat, and he was a member of the Democratic party. He got up early in the morning, used to go to the store and when the pavements and the winter time would make the tire and sweep the snow.

"In the same spirit when he was sought again by election, I would, early the next morning, go to the store and sweep the snow, and have never any trouble with the whole world's habit of voting third directly and in order."

Such an ardent boy was always welcome to the store, and when the pavements and the winter time would make the tire and sweep the snow.

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"I want to know," said Mr. Livingston, (Flem., Ga.) when the reading was completed, "whether the dispatches are official."

"They are copies of official dispatches," replied Mr. Money.

"I demand the regular order," shouted Mr. Simpson (Pop., Kans.)

"I want it understood," said Mr. Money, "that object does not come from a Democrat."

"It comes from one very near related to a Democrat," retorted Mr. Reed.

Mr. Sayers presented the sundry civil appropriation bill and the Hawaiian debate was then resumed.

RUMORED CUT IN WAGES.

General Manager Frey Says There Is Nothing In It.

Concerning the report that the general employee of the Santa Fe would be subject to a cut of ten per cent, General Manager J. J. Frey said to a JOURNAL reporter this afternoon:

"I have heard nothing of it. If there were any truth in such a report I would undoubtedly know of it."

Gompers in Figit.

New York, Feb. 3.—For the first time in his career as labor advocate Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, will tomorrow evening speak publicly. He is to speak in the evening at the church of Divine Purity, 45th street and Fifth Avenue, and he has selected for his subject, "The Achievement and Mission of Organized Labor."

Judge J. B. Johnson who has been in St. Louis in conference with the officials of the Santa Fe arrived at home today.

Div. 174, Order of Railway Conductors, will give their sixth annual ball February 22d, at Hamilton Hall.

Editorial note: The first stage which the firm published was the "American Publishing Company," for the copyright of which they sold the ex-

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